

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 SP-02 INR-07 PRS-01

SAM-01 /049 W

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R 241606Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0454

CONFIDENTIAL BUENOS AIRES 2038

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJ: RESULTS OF MARCH 21 WORKING GROUP SESSION

1. MOST SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME OF SESSION WAS FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF WHAT ARGENTINES HAVE IN MIND RE PARANA MEDIO PROJECTS (SEE SEPTEL FOR FURTHER ACCOUNT). BOTH SIDES UNDERSTOOD THAT GIVEN COMPLEXITIES AND LONG RANGE NATURE OF PROJECTS, ABOUT THE MOST THAT COULD BE DONE BEFORE SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT HERE WOULD BE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES IN GENERAL TERMS SO THAT SECRETARY HOPEFULLY WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO VOICE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN PRINCIPLE IN PROJECT.

2. ARGENTINE SIDE INFORMED US THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED INDICATIONS FROM ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT FOR A FEW DAYS, FROM, SAY, FIRST WEEK UNTIL SECOND WEEK IN APRIL. THEY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT VISIT CAN GO FORWARD WITHOUT NEW POSTPONEMENTS, BUT INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ADJUST PLANS TO BRIEF POSTPONEMENT IF THIS PROVES NECESSARY.

3. ON CUBAN ISSUE, ARGENTINE SIDE INDICATED MAIN CONCERN WAS TO AVOID FURTHER EMBITTERING AND DIVISIVE DEBATE. THEY BELIEVED IT BETTER TO FIND SOME WAY AROUND THE ISSUE RATHER THAN MEETING IT HEAD ON. TOW STEP FORMULA SUGGESTED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS APPEALED TO THEM

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FOR THIS REASONS. THEY WANT TO MAKE CERTAIN US SIDE

UNDERSTANDS HOWEVER THAT THEY WISH TO TAKE CARE OF THE CUBAN SANCTIONS ISSUE QUICKLY AND WITH A MINIMUM OF DEBATE AND THAT THEY THEN HOPE WAY WILL BE CLEARED FOR CUBAN PARTICIPATION AT MFM--PROVIDED THEY ARE ASSURED THAT IT WILL NOT PLAY A DISRUPTIVE ROLE.

4. MALVINAS ISSUE WAS EXPLORED ON MARCH 17 (SEE BA 1907). ARGENTINE SIDE REITERATED AGAIN ON MARCH 21 THAT THEY DO NOT EXPECT MUCH FROM US, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GESTURE WE CAN MAKE.

5. SECRETARY GENERALSHIP WAS DROPPED BY AGREEMENT AS AN ISSUE FOR WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS. ARGENTINE INDICATED FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES WILL PROBABLY MENTION IT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER BUT WILL NOT EXPECT LATTER TO INDICATE US POSITION (I.E. FOR WHOM US WILL VOTE) AT THAT TIME.

6. ARGENTINES EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KNOWING WHETHER US SAY ANY SPECIAL PROBLEMS ARISING AT OAS/GA IN ADDITION TO CUBA. IF SO WHAT WERE THEY? WE AGREED TO ASK FOR DEPARTMENTS VIEWS.

7. TWO SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN NEXT WEEK TO EXPLORE ECONOMIC ISSUES, ESPECIALLY HOW THEY NOW VIEW TRA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS02038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750102-0762
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750323/aaaaaull.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESULTS OF MARCH 21 WORKING GROUP SESSION
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006